

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4-14 have been amended.

Claims 1, 5, and 6 are independent.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,621,828 to Field.

Applicants submit that amended independent claims 1, 5, and 6, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

First, Applicant notes that in all claims, the terms "service" and "service stream" are herein amended to be "traffic". As can be understood by those skilled in the art, the term "traffic" means messages or data conveyed through a communication system. In particular, referring to Figure 2 of the present invention, traffic from different units (such as the TDM line unit and the data service processing unit) is transmitted to different modules separately. Therefore, the term "traffic" is supported by the application as filed.

Applicant further notes the following:

- Claim 1 is amended herein based on page 20, line 11, and Figure 2, of the application as filed.
- Claim 4 is amended for consistency.
- Claim 5 is amended herein based on page 20 line 11 and Figure 4 of the application as filed.
- Claim 6 is amended according to the amendments to claim 1.
- Claims 7-13 are adapted to the amendments to independent claim 6.

Claim 14 is amended to refer to claim 1.

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Turning now to the Field patent, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is different from Field in at least the following aspects.

First, Field in column 6, lines 34-37 (as cited by the Examiner) states that “[t]he ATM line cards 40 perform header translation by identifying the coming virtual path identifier (VPI)/virtual channel identifier (VCI) in cells and replacing the VPI/VCI with a cell connection identifier (CID).” This portion describes the operation of the **ATM line cards**, i.e., constructing cells with CID. That is to say, the operation of constructing cells with CID is accomplished by the ATM line cards.

However, the present invention claims an integrated **cross-switching unit**, which is certain to connect with a switch card of a switch as its name means. It is impossible that the integrated cross-switching unit is connected with a line card of the switch or located in a line card of the switch. Furthermore, as defined in amended claim 1, the bus identification module is adapted to transmit traffic from the TDM line unit to the cross-connecting unit and to transmit packets from the data service processing unit to the packet scheduling module; it is clear that the bus identification module connects with the TDM line unit and the data service processing unit but not connects with the TDM line unit and the data service processing unit or locates in the TDM line unit and the data service processing unit.

Second, the line cards 40 cannot be considered as being equivalent to the bus identification module of the present invention. The ATM line cards 40 identify the coming virtual path identifier (VPI)/virtual channel identifier (VCI) in cells and replace the VPI/VCI with a cell connection identifier (CID), and thereby constructing cells with CID for subsequent ATM adaptation layer (AAL) cell based switching at the switch core 44.

Therefore, it should be clear that this portion as cited by the Examiner mentions only the construction of cells with CID.

However, according to amended claim 1 of the present invention, *"the bus identification module is adapted to identify traffic source, to transmit traffic from the TDM line unit to the cross-connecting unit, and to transmit packets from the data service processing unit to the packet scheduling module"*. In other words, the bus identification module can identify the source of traffic. Particularly, with reference to Figure 2, the bus identification module identifies where the traffic comes from (i.e., from the TDM line unit or the data service processing unit); if the bus identification module identifies that the traffic comes from the TDM line unit (in this case, the backplane bus is identified as a TELECOM bus), it transmits the traffic to the cross-connecting unit; and if the bus identification module identifies that the traffic comes from the data service processing unit (in this case, the backplane bus is identified as a packet bus), it transmits the traffic to the packet scheduling module. It should be clear that since only one bus identification module is connected with both of the TDM line unit and the data service processing unit (as discussed above) and can identify the traffic source, the present invention can save slots of a switch using the integrated cross-switching unit.

It is respectfully submitted that the italicized technical features of the present invention are absolutely different from Field. Therefore, the currently amended claim 1 of the present invention is not anticipated by Field.

Furthermore, based on the above discussion, there is no hint for a skilled person in the art to achieve the technical solution of the present invention based on the disclosure of Field. Therefore, the currently amended claim 1 of the present invention should be considered as

patentable over Field.

Independent claims 5 and 6 recites features which are similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, claims 5 and 6 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted

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